

IN THE CLAIMS

The following claim listing replaces all prior versions and listings thereof:

1. (Currently Amended) A securing device ~~for a spring~~, comprising:

a spring;

a generally annular spring support comprising a spring mount that projects on an inner side of the spring support and is configured to support the spring; and

a generally annular coupling ring configured to connect to the spring support, to secure the spring between the spring support and the coupling ring.

2. (Currently Amended) The securing device according to claim 1, wherein:

said spring support has a first inner diameter and a second inner diameter; and

said spring mount ~~radially inwardly projects at~~ formed a region between said first inner diameter and said second inner diameter.

3. (Currently Amended) The securing device according to claim 1, wherein ~~a first threads are~~ thread is formed on an inner periphery of the spring mount of the spring support, and ~~a second threads are~~ thread is formed on an

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outer periphery of the coupling ring, the first and second threads configured to threadedly engage each other.

4. (Withdrawn) The securing device according to claim 1, wherein the coupling ring comprises synthetic resin and is configured to at least one of press and fix a periphery of the spring via a generally ring-shaped nut.

5. (Currently Amended) A securing device ~~for a spring~~, comprising:

a spring;

a generally annular spring support comprising a spring mount that projects on an inner side of the spring support and is configured to support the spring;

a generally annular coupling ring configured to connect to the spring support, to secure the spring between the spring support and the coupling ring; and

a plurality of fixation holes penetratingly formed through the coupling ring, the plurality of fixation holes configured to accept a respective plurality of fixation tools.

6. (Currently Amended) The securing device according to claim 5, wherein:

said spring support has a first inner diameter and a second inner diameter; and

said spring mount ~~radially inwardly projects~~ is formed at a region between said first inner diameter and said second inner diameter.

7. (Currently Amended) The securing device according to claim 5, wherein ~~a first threads are~~ thread is formed on an inner periphery of the spring mount of the spring support, and ~~a second threads are~~ thread is formed on an outer periphery of the coupling ring, the first and second threads configured to threadedly engage each other.

8. (Withdrawn) The securing device according to claim 5, wherein the coupling ring comprises synthetic resin and is configured to at least one of press and fix a periphery of the spring via a generally ring-shaped nut.

9. (Original) The securing device according to claim 5, wherein the plurality of fixation holes are at an interval of one of approximately 90° and 180° on the coupling ring.

10. A securing device ~~for a spring~~, comprising:

a spring;

a generally annular spring support comprising a spring mount that projects on an inner side of the spring support and is configured to support the spring;

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a generally annular coupling ring configured to connect to the spring support, to secure the spring between the spring support and the coupling ring; and

a plurality of threaded holes in the coupling ring.

11. (Original) The securing device according to claim 10, wherein:

said spring support has a first inner diameter and a second inner diameter; and

said spring mount radially inwardly projects at a region between said first inner diameter and said second inner diameter.

12. (Currently Amended) The securing device according to claim 10, wherein a first thread is formed on an inner periphery of the spring mount of the spring support, and a second thread is formed on an outer periphery of the coupling ring, the first and second threads configured to threadedly engage each other.

13. (Withdrawn) The securing device according to claim 10, wherein the coupling ring comprises synthetic resin and is configured to at least one of press and fix a periphery of the spring with a generally ring-shaped nut.

14. (Original) The securing device according to claim 10, wherein the plurality of threaded holes are at an interval of one of approximately 90° and 180° on the coupling ring.

15-24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) A method of securing a spring to a reciprocating device, the method comprising:

inserting a spring into a generally annular spring support such that a spring mount of the spring support supports the spring; and

connecting a generally annular coupling ring to the spring support such that the spring is secured and sandwiched between the coupling ring and the projection.